

Poetry.

HOPE.

A. C. SALLS.

What though the wintry winds blow cold,
And the shivering trees toss shriveled arms?
What though the storm is harsh and bold,
And fills my way with dread alarms,
And all around there seems a dearth—
Save at the hearth—of joy and mirth?
The years have seasons; spring will come!
The boughs will leaf and softly sway,
The fields resound with cheery hum,
And joys attend me on my way.

What though life's cares seem heavy now,
And strange forebodings bring grave fears?
What though stray lines enstamp my brow,
Or my weary load I bear in tears?
I'll list to nature, through whose voice
God surely speaks, and bids rejoice.
Life hath its seasons, too; the times
Of grief or doubt will yet give way
To joy and peace and laughter's chimes,
And life regain its summer day.

—Herald and Presbyterian.

Contributions.

MRS. WHITE AND HER ANTI-SCRIPTURAL CLAIMS.

JOHN DUKE MCFADEN.

"The body of professed Christians known for more than forty years past by the name 'Seventh Day Adventists,' have among their number a woman, Mrs. Ellen G. White, who, they profess to believe, has what is termed the 'gift of prophecy,' i. e. she is specially and miraculously moved by the Spirit of God in her utterances.

Mrs. White has been connected with this body from its organization to the present time. She has been, and is today the leading and most prominent person connected with the S. D. A. movement. She is a prolific writer and often appears in the pulpit as a public speaker."

Let us notice her claims, because we are told to "Prove all things, hold fast that which is good." I Thess. 5:21. We are also told, "Beware of false prophets." Matt. 7:15.

Does Mrs. White claim inspiration? She does; her writings are called testimonies. In Vol. 4, page 148, she says: "In ancient time God spoke to men by his prophets and apostles. In these days he speaks to them by the *testimonies of his Spirit*." She compares herself to the prophets and apostles. I have been under the impression that "God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets *hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son*." Heb. 1:1, 2. Not through a diseased woman.

She says: "If God's word spoken in

awful solemnity from the holy mountain is lightly regarded, how will the *testimonies of his Spirit be received*?" The "testimonies" are his own words, she compares her words with the words of God on Sinai.

Some of the members feel keenly this unscriptural and presumptuous position, and seek to draw a line between what is inspired and what is not.

"That which is shown to her in vision, or is spoken to her by the angels, say they, is of divine authority; but when she only expresses her own views and opinions based upon information received from a human source, her words then are of no more authority than those of any other good person. Against any such position as this Mrs. White most resolutely protests.

Vol. 23 page 211.

"Some have taken the position that the warnings, cautions, and reproofs given by the Lord through his servant, unless they come through special vision for each individual case, should have no more weight than counsel from other sources. In some cases it has been represented that in giving a testimony for churches or individuals I have been influenced to write as I did by letters received from members of the church. There have been those who claimed that testimony purporting to be given by the Spirit of God, were merely the expression of my own judgment, based upon information gathered from human sources. *This statement is utterly false.*"

Here she declares that though what she utters or writes may be in response to information gathered from a human source, yet it is given to her by the Spirit of God. She then compares herself with Paul who wrote to the church at Corinth, upon information received from the household of Chloe, and that as no one questions the inspiration of the Epistle to the Corinthians because of this, so no one should question her writings under similar circumstances."

Does the church sustain her in her ungodly claims? She does. One of their members talking to a member of my own church said: "If the Lord would reveal it to Mrs. White the whole church would accept it." That expresses the position, Mrs. White and the whole church. It matters not about the Lord having revealed it to the apostles just so he favors Mrs. White. Their "State and General Conferences," year after year have passed "ironclad resolutions" endorsing her revelations. They publish a book defending her inspiration. "The visions of Mrs. E. G. White are revelations from God," was the proposition they affirmed in a debate

with Elder Canright. See his book, page 135. Uriah Smith says of her inspiration: "It comes to us as a divine message; it is a ray of light from the throne." I shall notice some of these rays later on. In advent review, July 2, 1889 are laid down rules. "Rules, 1. We will not neglect the study of the Bible and the *testimonies*," her writings are equal with the Bible, just like Joe Smith's book of Mormonism.

From "The Our Race News Leaflet," No. 14 and 15 page 13, under the title, "The final argument of Battle Creek," I take the following:

"At a recent meeting of the Seventh Day Adventists Conference in Oakland, one of the speakers, Geo. W. Mills, is reported by the *San Francisco Examiner* as follows: 'The last tenet of adventism which is vital to the (this) sect is that Mrs. Ellen G. White, our prophetess, is directly inspired by God. If that is not true, nothing is true in our religion. Mrs. White has visions, and whatever she utters while in them is taken down by her shorthand reporter. After it is revised and edited by Mrs. White it is accepted by us as the voice of God, and becomes sacred.'—Eushia, May 1893.

Think of God talking to this woman, and a shorthand reporter, and then God's word having to be revised. What stuff to swallow.

Totten's comment is as follows: "What purely insane and outrageous effrontery! She goes into a trance, does she? and to 'prompt' her a fallible reporter takes down her fervid utterances. Then she wakes up, and dares to revise what second hand 'stuff' purports to be the utterance of the Holy Spirit of Inspiration! What literal fools these mortals be, to think that men 'of the byways and hedges' of life, seeking for truth and God, will heed the revised vaporings of a disordered education."

The Lord saw these false prophets and gave us a rule to test them. "When the prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken; but the prophet hath spoken presumptuously; thou shalt not be afraid of him." Deut. 18:22. Mrs. White is that kind of a prophet. She is presumptuous and ignorant.

Editor Jacob Brinkerhoff who repudiates her visions, relates the following in "The Seventh Day Adventists and Mrs. Whites Visions." Page 6. "A notable case of human testimony is found in *Spiritual Gifts*, Vol. 2, pp. 124-7, pub. 1860, where at Camden, N. Y., she gives testimony against a woman and a man, calling him her husband two or three times, and